

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/TRC:WADIAMANTI:AMP
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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, EWWT, IMCO, EG

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES TSPP: VISITS TO
CAPITALS: REPORT OF DELEGATION'S VISIT TO EGYPT

1. SUMMARY: US DELEGATION (RADM BENKERT AND FSO DIAMANTI)
ACCOMPANIED BY FSO KIMBLE OF AMEMBASSY CAIRO MET WITH
EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVES FOR REVIEW OF U.S. INITIATIVES
ON TANKER SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION (TSPP) WHO WERE
WELL INFORMED, INTERESTED, GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE, BUT CON-
CERNED ABOUT COSTS TO GOE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF IMCO CONVEN-
TIONS, INCLUDING RECEPTION FACILITIES UNDER MARPOL 73. GOE
INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN FEBRUARY CONFERENCE, BUT SIZE AND
COMPOSITION OF GOE DELEGATION NOT YET FIRM. GOE HAS A
SPECIAL IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEM DUE TO QUOTE INNOCENT
PASSAGE UNQUOTE PROVISIONS OF SUEZ CANAL CONVENTION. ADDI-
TIONAL DOCUMENTATION WAS PROMISED BY THE U.S. DELEGATION.
END SUMMARY.

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2. U.S. DELEGATION MET BRIEFLY WITH AMBASSADOR EILTS AT
9 A.M. JANUARY 3 TO BRIEF HIM ON THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF
THE DELEGATION'S VISIT. THE AMBASSADOR PROVIDED USEFUL
GUIDANCE ON THE MANNER OF SEEKING GOE SUPPORT FOR U.S. PRO-
POSALS.

3. U.S. DELEGATION THEN MET WITH HAKKY A. GHARBO, DIRECTOR GENERAL, PORTS AND LIGHTHOUSES ADMINISTRATION; MOSTAFA FAWZI, DIRECTOR GENERAL, MARITIME INSPECTION DEPARTMENT, PORTS AND LIGHTHOUSES ADMINISTRATION; M. EMAM ABD RABBOU, SUPERVISOR, MARINE INSPECTION, P & L AUTHORITY; AHMED F. ASSAAD, CHIEF OF NAUTICAL STUDIES, ARAB MARINE TRANSPORT ACADEMY; AND DR. M.A. FAWZI, HEAD, SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, ARAB MARITIME TRANSPORT ACADEMY (ADM. AL-SAMMAK AND THE MINISTER OF MARITIME TRANSPORT, ABDEL SATTAR MEGAHED, WERE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE DUE TO THE ARRIVAL THAT MORNING OF THE U.S. HYDROGRAPHIC SHIP AT ALEXANDRIA). MEETING WAS FOR A REVIEW OF THE ISSUES, AND PROBLEMS THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATES MIGHT HAVE, IN PREPARING THEIR POSITION FOR THE TSPP CONFERENCE.

4. THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION HAD RECEIVED AND READ THE REPORT OF THE JOINT MSC/MEPC MEETING, BUT HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN MSC/MEPC. THEY WERE FAMILIAR WITH THE U.S. PROPOSALS AND QUOTED FROM TIME TO TIME FROM PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS OF MARCH 17, 1977. IN ANSWER TO ADMIRAL BENKERT'S QUESTION, THEY INDICATED THAT THE GOE QUOTE INTENDED UNQUOTE TO BE REPRESENTED IN LONDON IN FEBRUARY, BUT THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOE DELEGATION IS STILL UNDECIDED. MOSTAFA FAWZI WILL BE THERE AND THEY HOPE THAT GHARBO, M.A. FAWZI, AND A LAWYER FROM THE SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY WILL ACCOMPANY HIM. THE SAME GROUP ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE ON CREW TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 24-JULY 7, 1978 AT IMCO.

5. THE EGYPTIANS WHO HAD NOT ATTENDED THE DECEMBER MEPC MEETING, ASKED ADMIRAL BENKERT FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING. BENKERT GAVE THEM A COPY OF THE PRELIMINARY REPORT AND OF THE U.S. PAPER SUBMITTED THERE ON CRUDE OIL WASHING (COW). HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP ON COW STILL HAS NOT RECEIVED THE PROMISED QUOTE FULL UNQUOTE ANSWERS TO THE U.S. QUESTIONS, BUT SAID WE HOPED TO GET MORE USEFUL INFORMATION DURING PLANNED JANUARY MEETING WITH OCIMF IN WASHINGTON IN MID-JANUARY. THE EGYPTIANS AGREED THAT OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF COW WAS ALL IMPORTANT TO ITS ACCEPTABILITY AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO SEGREGATED BALLAST TANKS (SBT).

6. THE EGYPTIANS ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE LOWER LIMIT OF SHIP SIZE FOR INERT GAS SYSTEMS (IGS), WHICH BENKERT PROVIDED. THEY ASKED OUR LATEST POSITION ON DOUBLE BOTTOMS (DB) WHICH BENKERT PROVIDED, INDICATING

THAT DEFENSIVE PLACEMENT OF SBT PROVIDED THE BEST POSSIBILITY FOR COMPROMISE AT THE CONFERENCE. BENKERT PROMISED TO SEND THEM COPIES OF ALL THE PAPERS, SUBMITTED BY THE USCG AND OTHERS, ON DEFENSIVE PLACEMENT. THE EGYPTIANS ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE U.S. PREFERENCE ON THE LEGAL DOCUMENTS, I.E., OPTION A OR B ON THE PROTOCOLS. THEY SEEMED TO PREFER ALTERNATIVE B.

7. THE EGYPTIANS POINTED OUT THAT THEIR LAWYERS FORESEE SOME POSSIBLE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE SUEZ CANAL CONVENTION AND THE IMCO CONVENTIONS ON MARPOL AND SOLAS. UNDER THE SUEZ CONVENTION SHIPS TRANSITTING THE CANAL ARE GUARANTEED QUOTE INNOCENT PASSAGE. UNQUOTE IN THEIR VIEW THE SUEZ CONVENTION MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE IMCO INSPECTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUIREMENTS, ETC. OTHERWISE, THERE COULD BE QUOTE POLITICAL PROBLEMS. UNQUOTE THE SAME WOULD BE THE CASE IN APPLYING THE CONVENTIONS TO SHIPS OF NON-PARTY STATES. THEY WILL PROBABLY APPLY THE SUEZ CONVENTION TO ALL TRANSITTING SHIPS, BUT THEN APPLY THE IMCO CONVENTIONS TO SHIPS ENTERING EGYPTIAN PORTS.

8. THE EGYPTIANS QUOTE HAVE BEGUN UNQUOTE THE RATIFICATION PROCESS FOR MARPOL 73 BUT HAVE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WITH RECEPTION FACILITIES FOR OILY WASTE. THEY FRANKLY INDICATED THAT THEIR RATIFICATION WOULD BE DELAYED. (IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION DURING THE AFTERNOON WITH DR. AHMED A. AMMAR AND ABBAS HAWID OF THE SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY WE WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THERE ARE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF RECEPTION FACILITIES, I.E. AT PORT SAID THE SOIL WILL NOT SUPPORT HEAVY RECEPTION FACILITIES.)

9. THE EGYPTIANS INDICATED VERY ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE STW CONFERENCE IN JUNE, WHICH THEY PLAN TO ATTEND, AND SHOWED CONSIDERABLE AFFIRMATIVE INTEREST IN BENKERT'S SUGGESTION THAT POSSIBLY A DIFFERENT FORMULA FOR COMING INTO FORCE MIGHT BE USED IN THE STW CONVENTION, I.E. THAT STATES WHO RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL TONNAGE, AS WELL AS STATES WITH SUBSTANTIAL TONNAGE REGISTERED, BE COUNTED FOR ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE.

10. THE EGYPTIANS WERE INTERESTED IN THE RESULTS SO FAR OF THE U.S. TANKER BOARDING PROGRAM. BENKERT PROMISED TO SEND THEM A REPORT OF USCG BOARDING AND INSPECTION DURING 1977. THEY NOTED WITH CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION THAT THE COAST GUARD HAS HAD NO DIFFICULTIES WITH EGYPTIAN SHIPS. THEY REQUESTED COPIES OF ANY ADDITIONAL PAPERS THE U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBMITS TO IMCO FOR THE FEBRUARY AND THE JUNE/JULY CONFERENCES. BENKERT PROMISED TO FURNISH ADVANCE COPIES OF ALL U.S. SUBMISSIONS.

11. COMMENTS: THE EGYPTIANS WERE BY FAR THE BEST INFORMED OF THE QUOTE LDC'S UNQUOTE VISITED BY THE U.S. DELEGATION. THEY ARE PHILOSOPHICALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. TSPP PROPOSALS, BUT HAVE REAL FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WITH RETROFIT AND WITH RECEPTION FACILITIES. THEY HOPE THEIR CANAL DREDGING PROGRAM WILL OBTAIN THEIR RECEPTION FACILITIES PROBLEM. THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK FOR THE AOPEC STATES, BUT ARE AWARE OF THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIMITATIONS. WHILE THE EGYPTIANS MAY NOT END UP BEING THE SUPPORTERS WE HAD ONCE HOPED THEY MIGHT BE, WE CAN BE ASSURED AT LEAST THAT THEY WILL NOT BE OUTSPOKEN OPPONENTS OF THE U.S. PROPOSALS.

12. U.S. DELEGATION SENDS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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